

jurisdiction by reason of such an act
Laving passed
a State legislature. The feeling that
they were
citizens of a great country, inheritors of a
noble his-
tory, charged with the important task of
preserving
intact the great republic of the world,
inspired the
people of the North with a determination
to main-
tain the integrity of the nation, at any
cost. People
spoke in the language of the time of "
preserving the
Union"; the expression was not strictly
logical, per-
haps, but its meaning was plain. It
meant that
the Northern people were determined to
maintain
the existing political system over the
whole length
and breadth of the land, as well by
preserving the
autonomy of the States as by maintaining
the au-
thority of the National Government.
Hence the
apparent contradiction in terms
involved in the
phrase above referred to—war for the
Union—did
not greatly trouble the Northern public.
It was in
vain that opponents of the war pointed
out that a
war could not be seriously waged against
a power
with the object of compelling it to enter
into a state
of peace and union with its opponent;
the meaning
of the phrase was sufficiently well
apprehended, al-
though it was not always clearly stated ;
it was, as

we have said above, a formula, expressive
of the
intention of the Northern people to
maintain, or
re-establish, by force of arms,
substantially the same
condition of things over the whole
country which
existed before the secession of the
Southern States,
so far, at least, as the relations of the
States to the
National Government were concerned.

It is plain from what has been said
that the war